

Town of Westmore

Municipal Building

54 Hinton Hill Rd

Westmore, VT

June 17, 2024

SELECT BOARD MEETING

In attendance: Peter Hyslop, Miriam Simonds, William perkins, Russell Curtis, Elaine Cashin, Ellie Majchrzak, Ed Barber, David Bradshaw, Carol Westinghouse, Joanna Burgess, Elizabeth Tucker, Timothy Aldrich, Kathleen Aldrich, Donna Dzugas
Bill opened the meeting at 6:03PM

ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA: Russell motioned and Miriam seconded to add Changes to the Open Meeting Law , Update on Engineer Visit to the North Beach, and additional correspondence from ITW concerning the Telecommunications Tower Project on Frog Hollow Lane as Old Business. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

VSP Vision Plan: Russell motioned and Miriam seconded to offer VSP to employees as an individual plan with premium paid in full by the employee through payroll deduction. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

VRCD-Westmore's Path Forward: Elaine & Ellie requested funds for the upcoming July 10 Community dinner. Ellie reported that the Westmore Association will cover \$500 toward the meal but asked for additional funds from the town to cover costs. Elaine requested \$500 for a town wide mailing of the event. Russell motioned and Bill seconded to allocate \$1500 for the Community Dinner with funding from the surplus amounts created by the ARPA funding. Motion passed.

Wake Boat Petition: David Bradshaw noted he wanted to keep the Select Board apprised of the development of a petition to prohibit intentional wake generation on Lake Willoughby which will be presented to the ANR, adding that the Westmore Association is in the process of writing the petition. Elizabeth noted a current petition being circulated to support the Westmore Association's position. Carol W. noted that nothing in the ANR petition will impact other boating activity. The petition is geared toward wakesport mode. Bill noted the overwhelming support at Town Meeting. Elizabeth asked if the petition referenced safety and environmental concerns as well as the fact that Lake Willoughby is a National Landmark. Carol W.said safety was the highest priority as the DEC has not yet considered it in their decision. David B. is hopeful that the state will honor and implement their petition by next season. Information Only. For more information, please contact Diane Lehder, Carol Westinghouse, David Bradshaw or Bruce Tanner.

Road Sign Policy: Russell motioned and Miriam seconded to sign the policy approved on March 11, 2024. Motion passed.

Municipal Buildings: Bill presented the Preservation Trust of Vermont Technical Assistance Survey created by Jan Lewandowski. He noted a cost estimate of approximately \$60,000 to repair the Municipal Building. He hopes to request a grant from the Preservation Trust with a 50-50 match from the town. He will request the portion of the town be paid with the surplus funds created by ARPA. Donna noted it may be a good subject to discuss at the July 10 Community Dinner under the infrastructure subtopic. Information Only.

Personnel Policy Review: Russell motioned to amend the current Personnel policy to include the 3 changes approved by the Select Board at meetings held on Dec 5, 2022, Jan 30, 2023 and Nov 20, 2023.

Bill seconded. Motion passed. Elaine to incorporate the changes and send the amended policy to the Select Board for a complete review.

S.55: Russell noted changes to the Open Meeting Law requiring each non-advisory board meeting be recorded and posted to the website for 30 days after the minutes are approved. He requested a second landline to be assigned to the new conferencing phone system which currently works with the Town Clerk's office phone line. The phone system can be a participant in a Zoom call and Zoom allows a link to be created which we can post on the website. Russell motioned and Bill seconded to add a phone line. Motion passed.

Engineer Visit to the North Beach: Bill stated that the engineer Tyler Billingsly met with him at the North Beach and surveyed the concrete and pavement for curb cut recommendations and options for crosswalks. He will get back to Bill in a couple of weeks. The fencing would not be included in his scope of work. Information only. Discussion also ensued on considering Jason for opening and closing the gate to the parking area. Bill will speak to Jason.

Receipt of notice indicating filing application complete by ITW to the Public Utility Commission: Peter recused himself from Select Board duty and left the room. Elaine reported that the Planning Board has scheduled a meeting to be held on Wednesday, the 19th at 6PM. She noted that the period for public comment will end on July 9, 2024.

Elaine also noted a new Section 106 filing available for review in the Town Clerk's office. Peter returned to the meeting. Information only.

ROAD FOREMAN:

Review of Employee Retirement Plans: The Board is reviewing benefits that may help attract and retain help. Elaine reported that changing from Group A to Group C in the Vermont State Retirement plan would increase the cost to the town by approximately \$8,000 for 4 eligible employees. In Group A, (as of July 2024), the town contributes 5.5% whereas in Group C the employer contributes 8.75%. The Board discussed the possibility of this change in lieu of a pay raise for the coming year. Russell motioned to authorize Elaine to begin discussion about changing the plan with the state treasurer's office. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Miriam reported that the focus of the June 11, 2024 NEKWMD meeting was on PFA's which are more pervasive than originally thought and are found everywhere.

CORRESPONDENCE: All correspondence on file in Town Clerk's Office for review

Official Notification of the proposed merger between NEK Broadband and CVFiber

Note of Thanks to Select Board and Road Crew for work on Foster's Grove South

ANR/DEC: Notice of Public Comment period on Materials Management

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PRIOR Select Board MEETING-June 3 Meeting and June 6 Special Meeting: Russell motioned and Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

REVIEW BILLS AND SIGN SELECT ORDERS & PAYROLL #13: Russell motioned to approve. Miriam seconded. Motion passed.

Russell motioned to adjourn at 7:41PM. Peter seconded. Motion passed.

Select Board Meeting June 17, 2024

Prepared by Elaine Cashin

A blue ink signature of Elaine Cashin, written in a cursive style.

William Perkins

A blue ink signature of William Perkins, written in a cursive style.

Peter Hyslop

A black ink signature of Peter Hyslop, written in a cursive style.

Miriam Simonds

A black ink signature of Miriam Simonds, written in a cursive style.

Russell Curtis

A black ink signature of Russell Curtis, written in a cursive style.